In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows, a marked up copy showing the claim amendments being amended hereto:

Page 13, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 26 which continues through line 10 on page 14 as follows. A marked up copy of the claimed amendment being appended hereto.

Each disk sector 62 is arranged to receive a sector plate insert 64 which is a transparent polycarbonate plate with a detachable handle 66 on the outer side to facilitate entry and removal of the plate insert 64 in the sector 62. The plate insert 64 and spacer wall 60 have respective recesses/projections (not shown in the interest of clarity) which allow the plate insert 64 to be inserted only in the correct orientation. The plate insert 64 has a groove 68, as shown in Fig. 4b for example, which allows the inset to be snap-fitted over a projection 70 upstanding from plate 58 into the sector. The thickness of the sector plate insert 64 is marginally less than the spacing provided between the upper and lower plates 56, 58 so that the plate insert 64 can be pressed/fitted into one of the disk sector 62 to define a liquid receiving chamber or space 73 between the upper surface 64a of the plate insert 64 and the lower surface 56a of the upper disk plate 56. Openings 72 are provided through the upper disk plate 56into each disk sector 64 whilst the space 70 between the radially outermost peripheral edge 74 of the insert plate 64 and the upper plate 56 provides a further vent or filing opening into the disk sector 62.

Page 18, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 which continues through line 24 on page 19 as follows. A marked up copy of the claimed amendment being appended hereto.

It will be appreciated that modification may be made to the above described embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, the opening through which a liquid analyte is introduced may be provided through the lower plate of the multi-well container. More than one opening can be used for faster flooding. This opening may be arranged to receive the tip of a syringe needle. The vent opening may also be provided in any one of the walls of the container although it is preferably provided in a peripheral wall.

The opening 22 may be provided by a single opening 22 or by a series of openings or vents as shown in Fig. 4d for example. A laser may be used with CD optics instead of the microscope and video camera for the embodiment of Fig. 4. The top plate in the embodiment of Figs. 3 and 4 may be snap-fitted to the lower plate and may be snap-fitted onto a CD base plate which would receive sections and provide the advantage of positioned information. As shown in Fig. 4c the upper planar surface 56 can have sector covers connected to a lower surface or central boss by a hinge, for example integrated living hinge 90 at the inner radius to allow each disk sector 62 to be pivotally raised and lowered and allow sector plates 64 to be inserted into each sector. The well size and spacing may be varied as required, for example the wells could be 3mm in diameter; 1.5mm apart and spaced 5.5mm between centre. The exact size and spacing is a matter of choice consistent with the requirement that fluid is retained in the wells after withdrawal as described above. However, the wells could also be filled during flooding of the space depending on the well size, type of plastic and fluid properties. However, liquid will still be retained in the wells upon withdrawal of the liquid. Also, the structure and inserts made may be of any suitable optically transmissive plastic, such as polystyrene or perspex™. The handle 66 may be integrated with or detachable from plate 64. As shown in Fig 4a the radially extending ribs may have radial shoulders 92 to define a recess 94 for receiving the plate 64 also defining the spacing height between the surface 64a of the plate 64 and the underside 56a for receiving the liquid. Suitable materials may be used to coat the interior of the sectors to aid fluid movement as described with reference to silicone above. This may be applied to the underside of the top surface and to the top surface of the plats as for the other embodiments. Suitable materials maybe used to increase the hydrophobicity of liquid across the sector and hydrophilicity to the movement of liquid into the desired location, e.g. wells. The wells may be coated with a suitable optical reflective material to enhance the reflection of light and observation of reactions occurring within the wells and, similarly, lenses 90 may be located in the top or bottom light transmissive plates 12 and 14 as seen in Fig. 8, to improve optical assessment of the reaction. These lenses may be moulded into the upper or lower plates of the exemplary embodiments during the manufacture as is well known in plastic moulding processes. Separate optical elements may be used instead, if appropriate.